

## portland children's investment fund



April 24, 2007

### **Children's Investment Fund allots \$3.2 million for early childhood initiatives**

Improving the quality of Portland childcare and providing more slots for youngsters from low-income families took center stage at Tuesday's Children's Investment Fund Allocation Committee meeting.

The committee unanimously voted to allocate \$3.2 million for two efforts that will reach hundreds of the city's youngest and poorest children during the next three years beginning July 1. The funding is aimed at increasing the quality of childcare centers and family-based childcare providers, as well as supporting low-income families with stable childcare.

"This funding will give hundreds of Portland's youth a healthy start in life as well as providing working class parents the help they need to secure safe, quality childcare for their children," said Allocation Committee Chair and Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman.

Under the first initiative, \$2.7 million will go toward:

- Enhancing the quality of local childcare providers whose assessment through a state-developed indicator tool flags a need for improvement. Childcare centers would receive staff mentoring and training in areas of child curriculum, health, mental health and business practices; they also would receive wage enhancements and grants to improve their childcare environment.
- Providing annual childcare subsidies for up to 100 children of low-income, working parents earning an income of no more than \$38,000 per year for a family of four. Childcare providers eligible to receive subsidies must meet various quality assurance criteria.

The second proposal is a \$500,000 allocation from the Children Investment Fund's Leverage Fund to provide childcare subsidies for Bridges to Housing families. The Fund dollars would provide childcare subsidies to the 52 families currently in Bridges to Housing and allow the program to leverage local resources and provide case management services for an additional 30 to 35 families.

Bridges to Housing is a local four-county effort to alleviate family homelessness in the Portland area. The effort is being coordinated by the Neighborhood Partnership Fund, a leader in affordable housing programs and services throughout the state. Other collaborators include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust and Multnomah County.

The Children's Investment Fund's contribution to Bridges to Housing is the seventh allocation from its Leverage Fund created in December 2004 to match public investments with private and other funders. Thus far, \$3 million has been allocated from the Leverage Fund to maximize community impact and make more resources available to Portland's children. These funds have been matched dollar for dollar with other funds for a total investment of \$6.1 million.

The additional grants made Tuesday were possible because of one-time only savings due to a gradual start-up of grants during the Fund's first year, unexpected higher tax revenues and a 5-percent administrative cap.

### **About the Children's Investment Fund**

In 2002 Portland voters passed Measure 26-33 creating the Children's Investment Fund. The Fund provides approximately \$10 million a year for five years to support 66 programs in early childhood development, after-school and mentoring and child abuse prevention and intervention. For more information, see [www.childrensinvestmentfund.org](http://www.childrensinvestmentfund.org)

Contact: Mary Gay Broderick/503-823-2947 or [mgbroderick@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:mgbroderick@ci.portland.or.us)

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